

Gov. Alfred Brown

No. 24.

Nearly a Fatality.



FARM AND GARDEN.

KEEPING A RESTIVE COW'S TAIL
QUIET WHILE MILKING.

How and When to Plant Seeds to Insure Good Crops—A Raspberry of Promise. Some Points About the Way a Garden Should be Situated.

The vegetable garden ought never to be in an orchard, or have trees or shrubs within it, for best results. The vegetable garden on a farm should be placed, when practicable, so as to be easily reached from the barn, to facilitate house cultivation. A gentle inclination to the south and east is the warmest, will give the earliest vegetables, and be best for corn, melons, tomatoes, etc., but it suffers more from a spring or early fall frost, because of receiving the direct rays of the morning sun. An inclination to the north and west is later, suffers less in a drought, and is the best for peas, cabbage, lettuce, etc. So it is an advantage in a large garden to have both these exposures, but for small gardens a gentle inclination to the south and east or a level surface is the best.

The arrangement of a small garden, when most or all of the work is done by hand, is a matter of taste, but on the farm it is quite important to have the garden so arranged that most of the work can be done by horse power.

Golden Queen Raspberry.

Numbered with new varieties of fruit prominent the present season among fruit growers everywhere that raspberries can be raised is the Golden Queen. This is supposed to be a seed of the Cuthbert. The claims made for it are that, while hardy and therefore adapted to the northern states, it also finds favor at the south, where heretofore only the Black Caps have succeeded well, the heat being too great for the red varieties. Flattering reports, it is claimed, have been received from Maine and Minnesota to Florida, Louisiana and Texas.



GOLDEN QUEEN RASPBERRY.

Mr. Vick describes this berry as of large size and good quality and golden yellow in color. The canes are said to be strong and productive. Mr. Theo. F. Baker, formerly president of the New Jersey Agricultural Society, expresses himself as pleased with the Golden Queen, which he has found will bear transportation with the best of the raspberries. J. T. Lovett claims that it bears draught admirably, and produces fruit in abundance. It seems to be sufficiently promising to justify a trial, at least on a small scale.

How and When to Plant Seeds.

The first important step taken toward the cultivation of a crop is the obtaining of good seed. Next come considerations of soil and depth of planting. The temperature and moisture of the ground have more to do with the successes and failures yearly recorded than is generally acted upon. Wheat and barley, for instance, while they struggle through the ground at the extreme temperatures of 41 degrees and 100 degrees, germinate most rapidly, other conditions being equal, at about 84 degrees. Corn does best at say 90 degrees, though it will germinate at from 50 to 115 degrees. The squash bean and pea all germinate quickly at about the same temperature as that given for corn. Clover seed often fails because sown at a time of insufficient moisture, while millet, for instance, under similar conditions of dryness will secure a good catch.

Every one who plants at all understands that the size of the seed has much to do with the depth of covering required, and farmers with one accord place corn deeper than the small grains, and the small grains deeper than the grasses, but all farmers do not vary these respective depths to suit the different soils into which the seed are placed, and yet it requires only a moment's consideration to see that a heavy soil which lies close to the seed admits of slighter covering than a shifting, sandy one. Many interesting experiments have been made from time to time in testing the germinating powers of seed under different depths of covering. In a table prepared by Professor Petri, showing the germination of wheat at certain depths in the ground, it appears that about three-fourths of the seed planted will come up at a depth of three inches, and nearly all at from one to two inches.

These and similar facts point to the importance of every planter's acquainting himself with the requirements of the seeds to be planted, and regulating time and depth of sowing to suit the same. They also explain many failures which have been due to the quality of the seed; but this should not lessen the zeal of farmers in their endeavors for a good, pure article.

Drill Planting—Shallow Cultivation.

It is nineteen years since Mr. E. S. Carman first began the advocacy of planting corn in drills instead of hills; of sowing fertilizers on the surface and merely harrowing them in; of surface cultivation—that is, shallow cultivation; and of keeping the land as level as possible—that is, not hilling up. There were then, as indeed there were many years previously, advocates of one or the other of these methods, but none who favored all simultaneously.

At the present time there are many progressive farmers who have tried this method, and few, if any, of them would return to the old way, viz: plowing under the manure, planting in hill, hilling up and deep cultivation, until the corn is harvested.

Mr. Carman also says: All farmers who have planted corn very early know that after the plants sprout and have grown two or three inches there usually comes a cold spell, and the plants stop growing and

often assume a yellow, sickly appearance. Is this due, as is generally supposed, to the cold weather altogether, or to the fact that nitrification ceases? If inquiring farmers would sow a little nitrate of soda upon a small portion of the field when planting, thus supplying nitrogen in an immediately available form, it might appear that the "stand-still" was due rather to a deficiency of nitrogenous food than to the cool weather.

Age of Seeds.

Corn will keep well on the cob, if it was properly dried, for several years longer than when shelled. In buying seed corn, it is one of the easiest of gaits for both horse and rider.

The single foot differs somewhat from the fox trot, and has been described as exactly intermediate between the true trot and the true walk. Each foot appears to move independently of the other, with a sort of pitapat, one at a time motion, and it is a much faster gait than the fox trot.

The rack is very nearly allied to the true pacing gait, the difference being that in the latter the hind foot keeps exactly in line with the fore foot of the same side, making it what has been called a literal or one side at a time motion, while in the former the hind foot touches the ground slightly in advance of the fore foot on the same side. The rack is not as fast a gait as the true pace; but is a very desirable gait in a saddle horse. In addition, the perfect saddle horse should be able to trot, pace and gallop, and should be quick, nervous and elastic in all his motions, without a particle of dullness or sluggishness in his nature. His mouth should be sensitive, and he should respond instantly to the slightest motion of the rein in the hands of the rider.

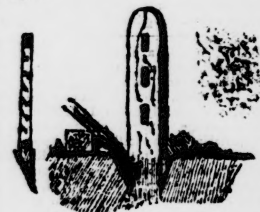
A poor and clumsy rider, however, will soon spoil the best trained saddle horse in the world, and such a person should never be permitted to mount a horse that is exceptionally valuable for that purpose. A "plunge" horse and a "plunge" rider may well go together; but keep a really good, well trained saddle horse for one who knows how to enjoy this most health giving, exhilarating and delightful out of door exercise.

Science of Nail Splitting.

Almost any farm hand can split rails, but there is considerable science to be observed in the work. One man will give them with ease, while another equally as stout will tug away and soon exhaust his strength, with comparative small results. The reason of this great disparity is in knowing how to apply the tools. But considerable advantage may be derived by an expert hand in having suitable tools. The best nail to be used is made of a knot, and should be of medium weight, not too heavy to swing with ease. One iron wedge, quite slim, should be kept and used for starting the split; it is not apt to rebound, and if it should, it may be easily prevented by making a few checks with an axe near together, and starting the wedge between them, or by rubbing the wedge in dirt.—Planters' Journal.

Lifting and Setting Posts.

A convenient and desirable implement for taking up fence posts, says The American Agriculturist, consists of a stout pole of the size and shape of a wagon tongue.



A CONVENIENT POST LIFTER.

The thickest part of this pole, for about fifteen inches from the end, is shaped into a wedge. This is sheathed with a frame made of iron half an inch thick and two and a half inches wide, and securely fastened with screws or bolts. The end should be pointed and slightly bent upward. The manner of using this convenient implement is shown above in the illustration.

Directions are also given for setting a gate post so that the gate will never sag and catch on the ground. Sometimes, owing to the soft nature of the soil, it is almost impossible to plant the post firmly by ordinary means.

The work may, however, be satisfactorily accomplished by packing medium sized stones around the post, in the hole, as shown in the engraving. Then if it is thought that this will not insure sufficient firmness, add good mortar.

Place in a layer a well set gate post. of stones, then mortar enough to imbed the next layer of stones, and so on until the hole is full and the post planted. Do not cover up the stones with earth or disturb the post for a few days until the mortar has "set." Remember that the post must be set plumb while the work is going on, as it can never be straightened after the mortar has "set." Only durable posts should be used, and this method of setting should only be followed with gate posts which are supposed to be permanent, and not with posts apt to be changed.

How to Tell if Timber is Sound.

The soundness of a log of timber may be ascertained by placing the ear close to one end of it, while another person delivers a succession of smart blows with a hammer or mallet upon the opposite end, when the continuance of the vibrations will indicate to an experienced ear even the degree of soundness. If only a dull thud meets the ear, the listener may be certain that unsoundness exists.

Our country is bigger than China. We have 3,622,000 square miles, and China has only 2,600,000.

NEW FACTS ABOUT THE CONGO.

The River Found to Have a Wider Expansion Than at Stanley Pool.

At its mouth the Congo river is of enormous depth, but only 100 miles or so above Stanley pool Capt. Braconier said a year or two ago that "steam launches drawing barely two and a half feet of water have to be dragged along by our men." H. H. Johnston mentions the same fact in his description of the Congo. "Our boat is constantly running aground on sandbanks," he wrote. "It has an extraordinary effect to see men walking half way over a great branch of the river, with water only up to their ankles, tracing the course of some hidden sandbank." Stanley, Johnston, and others attributed the remarkable shallowness of the river to its great breadth in this part of its course; but none of them knew how wide the river really is above the Kasai river.

We now have some new light on this question, which is a very interesting one, because the Congo is next to the greatest river in the world, and new discoveries with regard to the river are apt to be on a large scale. Capt. Rouvier has been surveying this part of the river, and he finds that for a distance of about fifty miles the river is much wider than was supposed. Its width, in fact, is from fifteen to twenty miles, a circumstance that has not been discovered before on account of many long islands, some of which have always been taken for one shore of the river. It follows, therefore, that there is a vast expanse on the upper Congo similar to and very much larger than Stanley pool. Steamboats have passed each other in this enlargement of the river without knowing of each other's proximity. It is easy to understand, therefore, how it happens that the Congo is in this place so very shallow, while in narrow portions of the lower river so plummet line has ever yet touched bottom. Navigation in this part of the Congo would be almost impossible were it not that here and there soundings are revealing channels deep and wide enough for all the requirements of steamboat traffic.—New York Sun.

A Treeless Forest.

Away down in Devonshire, in the southwestern part of England, there is a very interesting tract of land. It is known as Dartmoor forest, and is so named in all old deeds and grants of land; yet, with the exception of a small grove of dwarf oaks, it is almost entirely without trees! This strange contradiction is said to be due to the fact of the greater part of Dartmoor having actually been a forest years ago, but it was so infested with fierce wild animals that the people were forced, in self defense, to set fire to the trees, and so, by degrees, the forest was destroyed.

Certain it is that the soil of the moor is composed of rich, black, vegetable matter, and that remains of tree trunks have been found under the ground. Moreover, the people of one district have, for generations, enjoyed the privilege of free pasturage, through a grant awarded their ancestors for services in destroying wolves in Dartmoor forest; for the same reason they are allowed to gather the peat which abounds in the fens or marshy lands, and which makes an excellent fuel. The atmosphere of the moor is nearly always moist and foggy. Indeed, the people who live there say that—

The west wind always brings wet weather.
The east wind, wet and cold together;
The south wind surely brings us rain,
The north wind blows it back again.
—American Agriculturist.

A Senseless but Startling Fact.

Johann Richter, a 17 year old apprentice in Vienna, a few days ago accomplished the amazing but startling feat of climbing 638 feet to the topmost point of the great tower, which is the crowning glory of the grand old cathedral of St. Stephen's in that city. He climbed up at night. An account says: No moon was shining as he stole to the foot of the tower, and watching for his opportunity he strapped a black and yellow flag on his back, and began to clatter up the lightning rods. Ere he had got half way up his clothes were torn in a dozen places, his boots were split and the blood was streaming from his fingers. But he hung on like grim death, taking advantage of every chance protuberance, and after heroic exertions actually reached the summit. The slightest head swimming or the slightest nervousness and he would have been dashed to pieces. Happily, he never lost his presence of mind, and in the morning when the Viennese looked up at the cross of the old "Steffen," they affectionately call it, to their amazement find to it they saw a tiny black and yellow pennon fluttering in the breeze. Richter was arrested by the police, but discharged by the court after a lecture.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Wanted It for Their Crazy Quilts.

Governor Gray was one of the most astonished persons ever seen for a few moments the other afternoon. Among the sightseers at the new state Capitol building were two nicely dressed ladies who, after meeting the governor and being shown through with a great deal of courtesy, stopped before one of the beautiful lambrequins, which cost something over \$500, and both modestly requested that they be permitted to cut "just a small, little piece," as they were both making "such lovely crazy quilts," and they wanted so much to have some of that lovely material in them. After the ladies had somewhat hastily departed he said in conversation that it was remarkable what some people would ask for. Only recently he was asked to mail some of the ground of the state house yard to a man in Illinois, who stated in his letter that he had a little dirt from the grounds of every state house in the Union except Indiana. He got the dirt.—Indianapolis Times.

Royal Statues at Balmoral.

A life size statue of Prince Albert has been the most prominent object in the private grounds of Balmoral castle for many years past. It is now to have a companion in the shape of a similar statue of the queen, which is to be presented to her majesty as a jubilee memorial by the tenants of the Balmoral, Aberfeldie and Birkhall estates.—Chicago Times.

An Editor's First Vacation.

Miss Mary Booth, editor of Harper's Bazar, has gone to Europe, where she will spend five months in travel. This is her first real vacation since she took charge of the Bazar, twenty years ago.

A lady of Lewiston, Me., who recently was badly frightened by a street loafer, now carries a package of red pepper in her pocket, and is rather anxious that some ruffian should meet her.

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